

REMARKS

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In particular, the claimed limitation of "the exception of the pixels contained in the natural contour areas (NC) determined by the gradient filter (GF, THR)" in claim 5. Applicants respectfully submit this feature is shown in the drawings. In Fig. 1 the gradient filter step GF produces filtered values (G). The filtered values (G) are then compared with threshold values (THR). If they are higher, then a natural contour (NC) is detected. See specification, page 4, line 33 through page 5, line 13. The natural contour (NC) is used by the low-pass filter step (LPF) to filter the pixels coming from the block artifact detection step (BAD) with the exception of the pixels contained in the natural contour areas (NC). Accordingly, applicants submit that every feature of the invention is shown in the drawings and respectfully request removal of this objection.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In particular, that the specification does not explain how "the exception of the pixels contained in the natural contour areas (NC) determined by the gradient filter (GF, THR)" is performed.

Applicants submit that claim 5 is fully supported in the specification and complies with the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C 112, first paragraph. Moreover, the exception of the pixels contained in the natural contour areas (NC) determined by the gradient filter (GF, THR) is explained starting on page 4, line 33 through page 6, line 6. Applicants respectfully request removal this rejection.

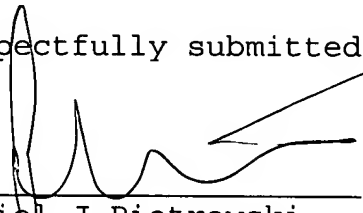
Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent NO. 5,384,849 to Jeong. Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jeong and further in view of Kobayashi, U.S. Patent No. 6,175,596. Claims 3-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jeong and further in view of Jung, U.S. Patent No. 5,701,368. Claims 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jeong and further in view of Rackett, U.S. Patent No. 6,317,522. Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-5 and 7-10 are pending.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 6-8 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully submit that base claim 1 has been substantially amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 6, and request removal the rejections.

Applicants respectfully submit that the other pending dependent claims 2-5 and 7-10, which depend from independent claim 1 are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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On December 20, 2004

By Noemi Chazac